

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Ideas

to add to your living pleasure



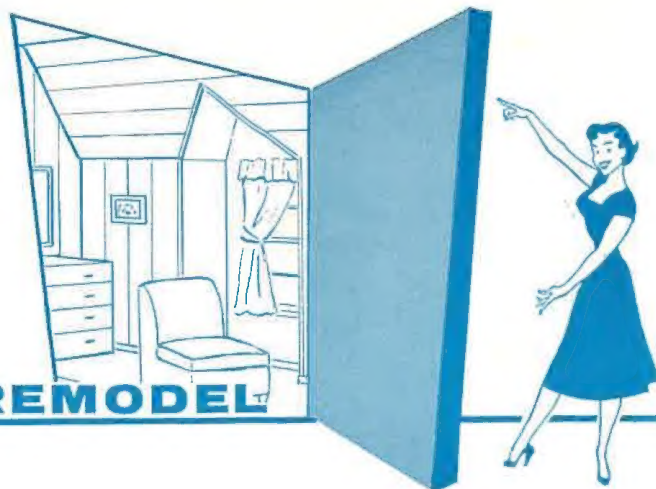
SEARS LUMBER MARKET

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YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

BEFORE YOU START TO REMODEL



An unfinished attic is the easiest and most economical area in a home that you can convert to use for additional rooms, extra livability and value. The area is entirely enclosed, there are usually windows already in and a subfloor on which to start work.

SPEND TIME PLANNING

Before work is started, however, there are several factors to check on and some decisions to make. First of all, have a detailed plan with dimensions of your new living area showing partitions, closets, built-ins and other accommodations desired. Study

your layout to make sure there will be plenty of window area and good ventilation. In addition there are many other construction details that must be considered. For example, some of them are:

STAIRWAYS

In case your house was completed without a stairway to the attic there are built-in folding stairways available which can be easily installed from the downstairs hallway; or possibly you prefer a permanent stair.

HEAT

In many houses with unfinished attics, heating ducts or pipes were run to the second floor and capped in case the attic was ever converted to living area, thus simplifying the heating problem. When there are no such ducts, you can have them installed and connected to your furnace.

INSULATION

Insulation is an important factor in saving fuel bills in cold weather and in making the new rooms comfortable in hot weather. Let us help you select the right insulation for your attic.

ELECTRICAL WIRING

Plan your electrical wiring so there will be plenty of outlets and sufficient artificial lighting for every requirement. Recessed lighting, valance lighting, plus lights in closets and storage areas, can add a lot to your new attic rooms if planned beforehand.

PLUMBING

Should you want bath or powder room facilities in your new living area, it is possible. Water pipes and soil pipes for plumbing have been run to the attic and stubbed in the same manner as the heating ducts and pipes were handled. If installation is necessary, you will find it more economical if you plan it directly above your first-floor bathroom or other plumbing installations on the first floor.

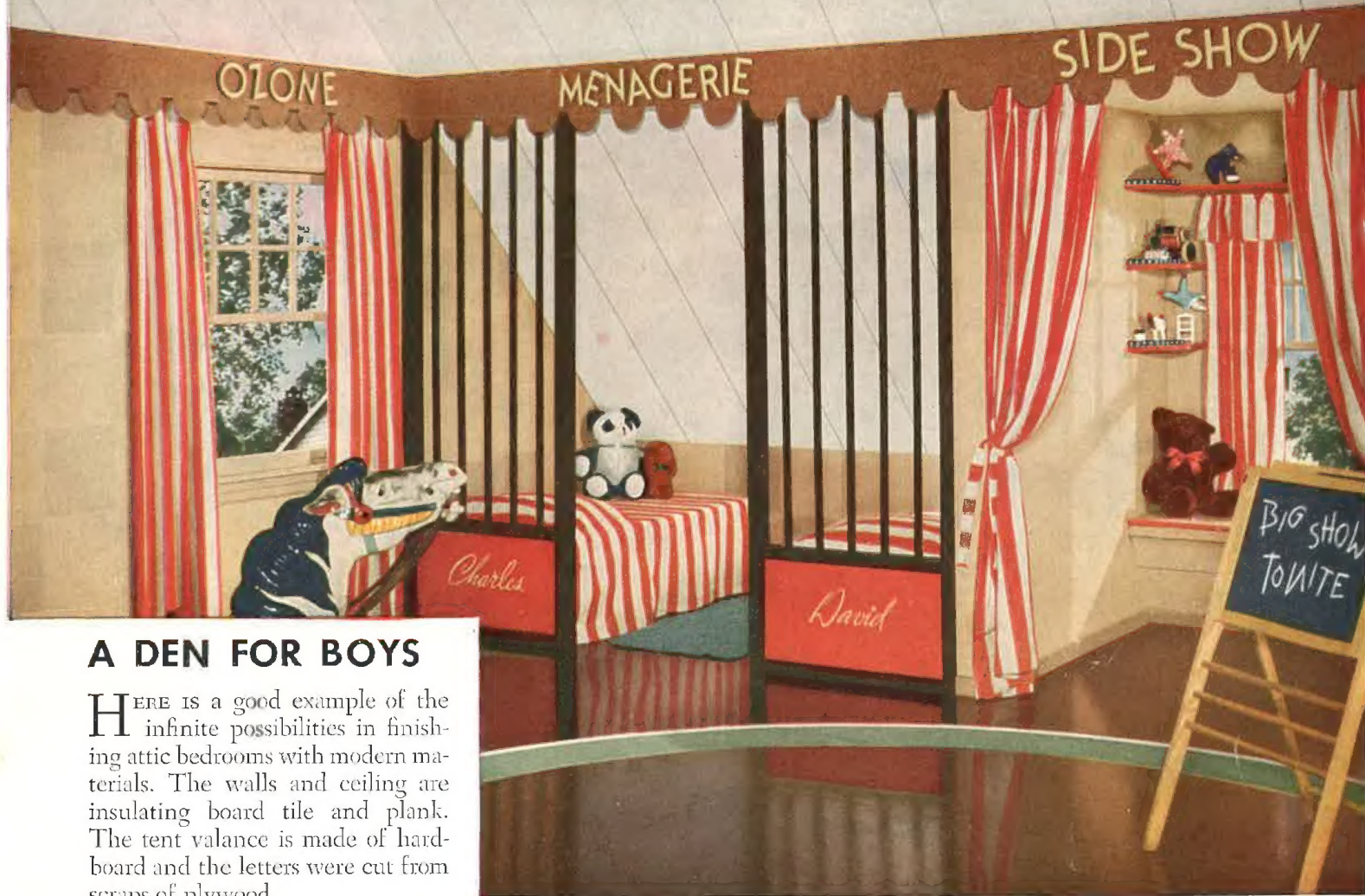
LET US HELP YOU

After you have studied the factors listed here your plans should be fairly well crystallized and it is time for you to consult with us. Since you cannot hope to function as designer, contractor and financing expert yourself, rely on our experience and facilities

to help you carry out your project, whether you plan to do most of the work yourself or hire it done. Whatever you wish to do, we will give you all the expert advice we can as part of our regular service to customers.

MONTHLY PAYMENT FINANCING IS AVAILABLE

Keep in mind that any permanent improvement you make to your home, whether it is finishing your attic or basement or adding to the structure itself, it can be financed on a monthly payment basis in several different ways. Financial lending institutions are happy to cooperate with home owners who want to provide their families with better living by modernization and expansion of houses.



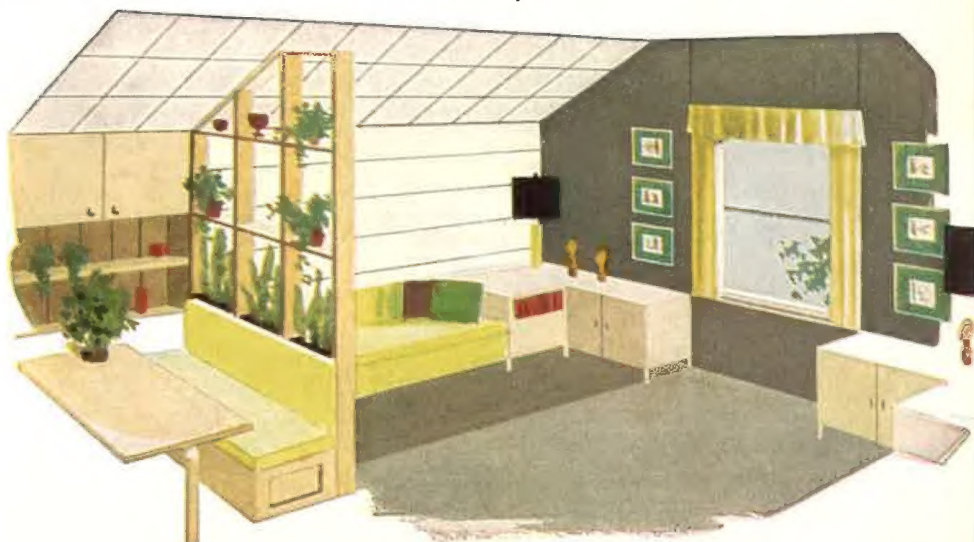
A DEN FOR BOYS

HERE IS a good example of the infinite possibilities in finishing attic bedrooms with modern materials. The walls and ceiling are insulating board tile and plank. The tent valance is made of hardboard and the letters were cut from scraps of plywood.

USE THESE IDEAS IN YOUR ATTIC ROOM

THE PAGES of this book were designed to help you decide how to finish your attic rooms. Study it. The ideas shown were assembled to illustrate many different materials and their uses in combination with each other.

Remember that attic rooms do not always have to be bedrooms. They can be put to a wide variety of uses to provide any family with better living for the expenditure of a nominal sum of money.





A ROOM FOR STUDY OR RELAXATION

PLAN TO **make** your attic finishing project more than just a sleeping room. It is easy to build in features which are permanently attractive and functional to add to the convenience and livability of the area. The corner of the room shown here illustrates how care in applying the insulating board on the walls and ceiling resulted in an unusual but pleasing effect. A built-in desk and

shelves for books and whatnots took a small amount of extra time and material but their value to the attractiveness of the room is obvious. When planning an attic room for children it is well to look ahead to the time when they will be in their teens and will require storage space for books and hobby paraphernalia.



These views show how the walls are cleverly recessed for built in features.



A GENERAL PURPOSE ROOM

EVEN THOUGH your attic area is large enough so that you can build large rooms without sloping sidewalls, do not fail to take advantage of the space under the rafters back of the knee walls for built-in features. This large attic all-purpose room has been made especially attractive because of the features built into the recessed walls. The built-in davenport-bed has storage space below for bedding and a cabinet at the end is slotted to hold card tables and game boards. Note that the television set is placed in a recess opposite the davenport rather than at one end of the room. This leaves that part of the room not occupied by television fans available for use by non-viewers.



FOR BIG SISTER

WHENEVER possible build your attic rooms so they carry out some theme or hobby. The three rooms here each illustrate a different theme with the one above designed to fit the special tastes of a teen-age girl. The two rooms below are planned for boys. Walls and ceilings in all these rooms are finished with gypsum wallboard.

MAKE YOUR CHILD'S ROOM DISTINCTIVE



TREAT THE GIRLS TO A ROOM LIKE THIS

SOMETIMES it is necessary to make attic rooms small so that quarters are cramped if children are to use the rooms for play as well as sleeping. In the room shown here, it was found desirable to build a double-deck bed for two small girls in order to allow extra room for a play area where the girls could spread their playtime paraphernalia out without being handicapped by a full-size double bed. This plan also helps to gain more wall space for built-ins and cabinets for storage when rooms are small. Note that the horizontal application of insulating board plank on the wall widens the appearance of the room. When you choose material to finish your attic rooms familiarize yourself with all the various manners in which it can be applied so that you will get the most attractive combinations for the rooms you are to decorate.



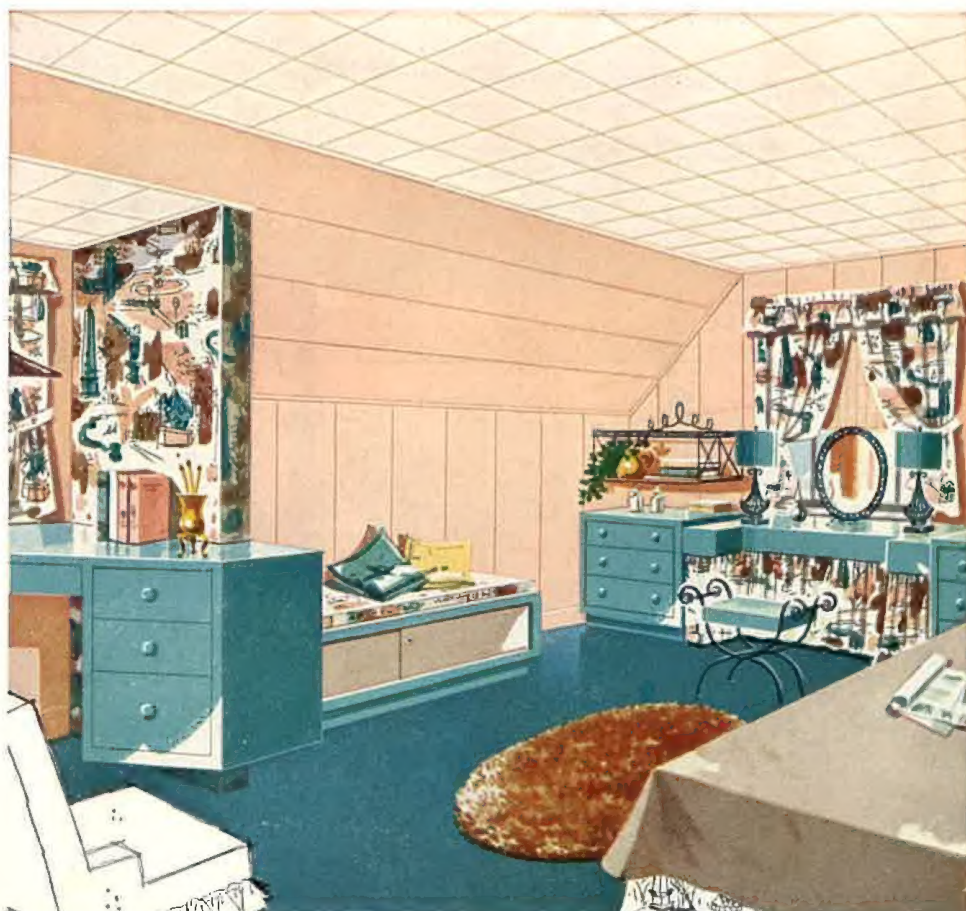


RUGGEDNESS FOR THE WESTERN DREAMER

POPULAR with a great many boys, the Western theme permits a design that is rugged and definitely masculine. Walls and ceiling as well as the built-in features are made of Douglas fir plywood, painted. The built-in desk under the sloping roof next to the dormer utilizes what would otherwise be unused space.

FRILLS FOR A YOUNG LADY

WHEN a little girl becomes a young lady she wants more living space and more privacy. An attic room similar to this, decorated in her favorite colors with plenty of space for clothes, books, magazines, and records puts her in a world of her own. The walls and ceiling in this room are of insulating board plank and tile.



THIS under-eave built-in storage unit can transform that awkward space under a sloping ceiling into one of the most useful areas in the home. It is made of Douglas fir plywood and has space for clothes, linens, bedding and a built-in desk. The rear is used for bulk storage.



PLAN SO YOU CAN USE UNDER-EAVE SPACE IN YOUR ATTIC ROOMS

BELOW is a wall where under-eave space is utilized for beds and a built-in chest of drawers. The beds are on casters. They can be rolled out for sleeping at night and then pushed back into their recesses to obtain unobstructed floor space during the daytime. The long shelf just above the recesses may be used for books or whatnots. There are many woods, plywoods and other materials for your selection in finishing a room of this kind.



UNDER-EAVE space is used, as illustrated above, for a built-in desk where two children may work or study at the same time. The built-in wardrobe at the right is another version of the one illustrated at the top of the page. The fir plywood paneling in this room was applied with V-joints and given a light stain finish for an interesting visual effect. The desk can be made by using a plywood top supported by chests of drawers.

Before You Start

TO FINISH YOUR BASEMENT

IN THE average home the basement is an area frequently ignored as part of the living and recreational facilities. It is, however, an area which can be put to just about any use to fit the fancy of the owner. Unfortunately many families labor under the impression they have no use for the basement area but once those same families finish and decorate a basement room, they find it difficult to understand how they could get along without it.

Actually in the average basement about all that is needed to create a clean, attractive hobby or recreation room is a partition or two and decoration. The laundry, furnace and utilities should be separated from the finished room with partitions. Before any work is started you should have a scale drawing of the size and shape of your new room with partitions, doors and windows measured and marked. After this is done, decisions must be made as to wall and ceiling finishes and floor covering, selected in conformity with the decoration motif and colors.

Consider Dampness Possibilities

Dampness and potential damage from moisture must be a prime consideration before any basement finishing project is undertaken. You should know your basement intimately and what conditions are there in all seasons of the year relative to dampness and moisture. If you are discouraged because your walls get damp and moisture appears occasionally in humid, wet weather remember those conditions can be corrected. New basement waterproofing compounds on the market give the home owner a wide choice in materials which will correct water seepage and leaks. The material chosen for dampproofing the basement will depend on whether conditions are mildly damp, moderately damp or severely damp. There are materials and methods for correcting all three conditions. Ordinary moisture condensation on walls and floors can usually be corrected by properly planned and executed ventilation.

Types of Walls Are Important

The type of walls you apply in your basement can also have some influence on the moisture condensation situation. Ordinary masonry paints over concrete will have little effect on this, but if nailing strips or studding are used to receive the new wall finish, this forms a dead air space which insulates masonry walls in the new room from warm humid air which causes condensation when it strikes cold basement walls. Any good wallboard or wood paneling applied over nailing strips or studding tends to keep moist air from contacting the masonry to form condensation and at the same time gives the home owner an opportunity to create a room which compares favorably with any of the other rooms in the house. In fact where special motifs and hobbies are incor-

porated in the new room, the wallboards and wood paneling permit maximum versatility in design and special effects.

Framing for Wall Finish

Rather than anchoring nailing strips or studding to the masonry walls, it is common practice to fasten a plate or bottom strip to the basement floor along the wall and then fasten 2x2 or 2x4 studding between that and the floor joists above to create nailing members for whatever type of wallboard or paneling is applied as the interior finish. Once studding are installed in this manner around a basement room, finishing techniques from then on are about the same as applying interior finish to any frame wall.

Heating and Ventilation

In planning your basement room include facilities for heating and good ventilation. Most heating plants are designed so that it is easy and economical to heat a basement room comfortably in cold weather. For ventilation, have as many windows as large as possible, with good screens, so they can be opened when ventilation is needed. If window area is limited and there is a question of adequate ventilation, a small ventilating fan will solve the problem.

Plan Adequate Wiring

Good electrical wiring with plenty of artificial light and wall plugs must be planned before work is started. If there is an opportunity to create unusual effects with lighting, this can add tremendously to the attractiveness of a basement room. Because ceiling height is usually low in a basement, it is advisable to plan recessed and cove lighting.

Don't Forget Storage Space

In the basement room, as in most rooms of the house, remember to include plenty of storage space. Closets and cabinets are as important here as anywhere else, particularly if children are to use the room for games and entertainment.

Let Us Help You

Our experience and facilities are available to help you plan and complete your project. Study all the various materials we have for you to choose from and familiarize yourself with their durability and installation techniques. Many wall and ceiling materials come in a wide range of factory-applied colors to save your decorating chores. Enjoy your planning as much as you do actually seeing the job completed by spending as much time as possible with us and make use of our knowledge of materials and their application.



BASEMENT SPACE BECOMES AN ALL-PURPOSE ROOM

AN ALL-PURPOSE room similar to this in your basement can be the center of family social and recreational activities. This was an ordinary basement containing the usual laundry, furnace and utilities along with this large unused area. Careful planning combined with good taste

in colors and built-in facilities resulted in the completion of a whole new area for better living in the home. The masonry walls were sealed with a waterproofing compound before the insulating board plank was applied. The floor is covered with rubber tile.

A PLAY AREA

PLANNED recreational facilities are as valuable for grownups as for children. It is much more enjoyable and relaxing to pursue a hobby or pastime activity without interference with other family activities and in many instances the facilities for participating in spare time activities can encourage or discourage such desirable undertakings. Plan your basement finishing project so all members of the family can enjoy the finished job now and in future years. The colorful walls in this room are finished in insulating board plank and the ceiling is white tile board.





A CORNER FOR USE BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY

BASEMENTS are ideal areas for recreational activities because it is relatively easy to keep noise from traveling upward to other areas of the home. The floors and walls are usually concrete and a reasonable amount of insulation applied in finishing the ceiling will keep ordinary sounds from disturbing persons on floors above or close next door neighbors. Moving of certain social and recreational activities to the basement also relieves the housewife of worries about wear or possible damage

to valuable formal furnishings in other living areas of the home. The advent of television has added another factor to considerations favoring finished basement rooms to include an area where viewers can enjoy their favorite telecasts without imposing on other members of the family. Walls of the basement shown here are covered with factory finished knotty pine design gypsum board which needs no decoration after it is applied.





A SPOT FOR RELAXATION

This beautiful basement is finished in a musical motif. Bright red accent colors brighten the room which has walls covered with factory-finished insulating board plank and insulating board tile on the ceiling.



A ROOM FOR THE HOBBYIST

THE collector of rare items always enjoys having his collection assembled in a compact, orderly manner with attractive surroundings. A basement room in Swiss motif solves the problem here. Walls and ceiling are Douglas fir plywood. False exposed beams carry recessed lights.



HERE IS THE RANCH-STYLE BASEMENT

A BASEMENT is usually the one area of the home where the decorative motif can suit the fancy of the owner. Here a western motif provides an attractive set-

ting for relaxation and entertainment. A steel bearing post was used as part of the decorative scheme which was completed with insulating board plank and tile.



FOR THE CONNOISSEUR

THE connoisseur of rare foods, rare books or both can use a basement room to get full enjoyment from his choice of the arts. The unusual and attractive wall treatment here was achieved by the use of light-grained hardwood plywood. Note how the recessed ceiling lights are placed in this room and in the room at the top of the page. As a general rule low ceilings in basements make recessed lights necessary.



Here's How One Basement Project Was Completed

IN EVERY basement room project there are plumbing and heating installation units which frequently appear as obstructions to smooth wall and ceiling finishing. The basement shown here had its full quota of these impediments but by judicious planning and good knowledge of products available some of the

apparent obstructions were actually converted into assets.

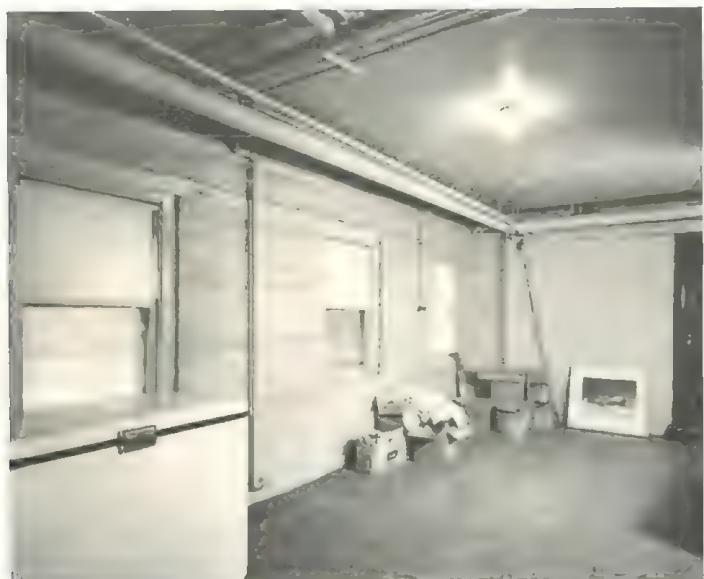
At first glance the heating and plumbing pipes suspended from the joists appeared as though they would make it necessary to lower the entire ceiling to conceal them. Study of the situation, however, revealed that they form a square which made it possible to install the beautiful recessed ceiling with indirect lighting.

An unattractive, rough partition at the far end was originally installed as one side of a coal bin. Part of this was removed and the recessed storage area for the ping pong and pool table equipment built in. The one pipe which runs from floor to ceiling through this recess was turned into an asset by covering it with photostats of sheet music, enlarged, and sealed with plain shellac.

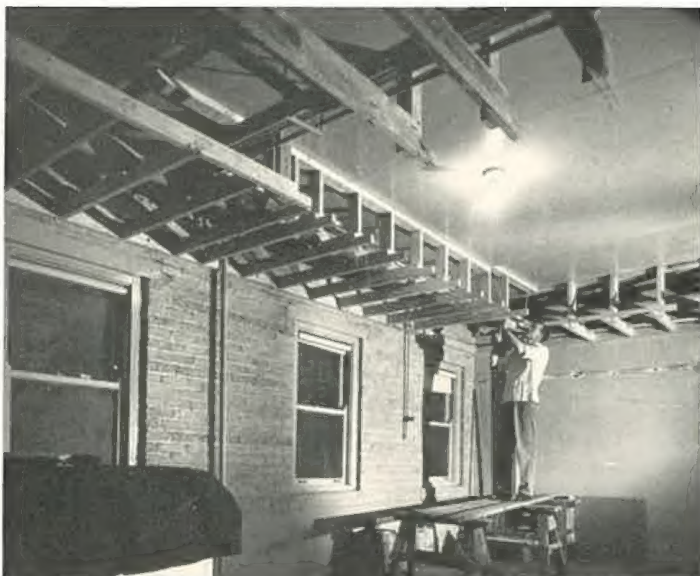
The banjo rack covers a lawn watering pipe and faucet. The free form covering the watering pipe is made of perforated hardboard and can be removed to use the faucet. A third water pipe running from ceiling to floor was cleaned, painted and three lamps attached to it to make a lamp tree.

Wainscoting in the room is hardboard siding, applied with the bottom edge of each strip set out slightly from the other to permit air to circulate freely behind the wall. This was done here because about two-thirds of the basement wall is above grade. Whether this would be done in other basements depends on the wall and the moisture situation.

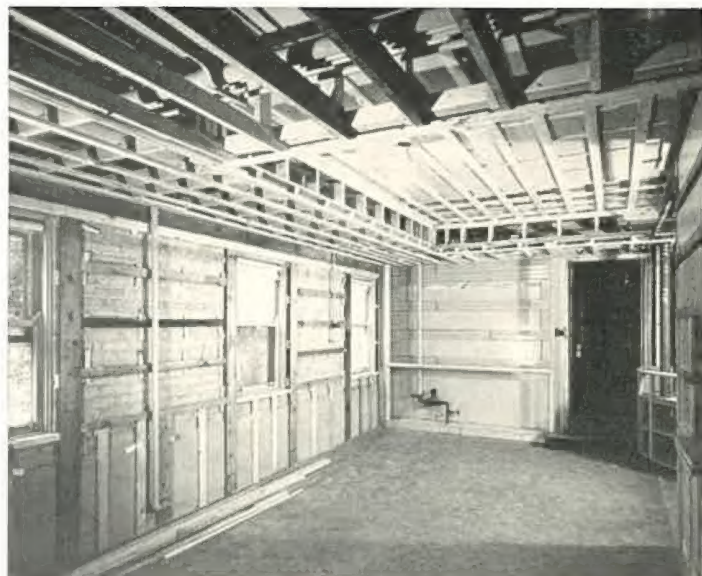
Perforated hardboard was used around the edge of the recessed ceiling to permit light to shine through as well as from behind it.



Basement before project was started. The exposed heating and plumbing pipes are typical of obstructions to be overcome in most basement finishing jobs. These obstructions, however, can be converted into assets by careful planning and knowledge of materials.



First step in the job was framing around plumbing and heating pipes to form the base for application of insulating board tile and perforated hardboard to make the recessed ceiling. Basic members were fastened to masonry walls and ceiling joists.



Here the ceiling framing is all in and furring strips have been fastened to masonry sidewall ready for application of finishing material. Framing is also in for recessed built-in at end of room. An access panel will permit water meter reading.



After all framing and furring strips are in place, finishing material is applied. Here insulating board tile are being stapled to ceiling members which were spaced to conform exactly to size of tile used.



With ceiling tile all in, perforated hardboard panels for indirect lighting setup are fitted and fastened in place. These panels are removable so that lights behind them can be cleaned and replaced when they burn out. All wiring was done after ceiling framing was in and furring strips fastened to sidewalls.



Hardboard wainscoting material is applied with each strip overlapping the one below about an inch. Wedges behind the furring strips were put there to make the finished wall straight.

Old lumber from the coal bin was used as furring strips on partition wall. The factory-finished insulating board plank is fastened with concealed nailing so when the job is completed, no decorating is required.





HERE THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN CAN ENTERTAIN

THE WIDE variety of interesting, colorful and easy-to-work-with materials available for basement room finishing projects permit the development of an infinite variety of themes at low cost. It is important, however, to know in advance of the time the project is started what the final completed job is to be. This means careful and patient planning in advance and judicious choice of materials and colors. The room above was completed in

marine motif with many accents to emphasize the illusion. Horizontal application of the insulating board plank with dark lines between each course give the room a feeling of spaciousness and aboard-ship appearance which was obtained as the finishing materials were applied. The ceiling was dropped around the edges to conceal heating and plumbing installations.

How Gypsum Wallboard Is Applied

GYPSUM wallboard, frequently described as "dry wall" material, is easy to use to build beauty, comfort and liveability into any home from attic to basement. The board is available in several thicknesses but the one-half inch material is recommended for general use.

The board is manufactured in 4-foot-wide panels, in several different lengths, with recessed edges for easy, neat taping and cementing of joints to make a smooth wall for any type of decoration.

Smooth, durable walls and ceilings start with good framing—with dry, straight lumber uniformly dimensioned. Good workmanship is equally important to provide a true alignment of framing members because gypsum wallboard is factory made and is a finished material that cannot be expected to hide all the imperfections in framing.

Before applying wallboard, check the following points: (1) Straight studs. (2) Uniformly dimensioned lumber to make sure that all nailing surfaces are flush. (3) The outer face of all bridging, fire stops and headers which must be flush with the nailing faces of the studs. (4) Nailing faces of all studs must be flush and in true alignment with the plate faces, top and bottom. Twisted studs should be avoided.

(5) All electrical outlets, heating ducts, etc., should be positioned for flush alignment with the finished wall board surface. (6) Nailing surfaces should be provided on both sides of vertical corners.



1. Gypsum wallboard can be cut easily by first scoring the surface paper with a sharp knife, then breaking the wallboard by snapping it over the edge of a straight edge or board. Paper on back is then cut and board snapped up.



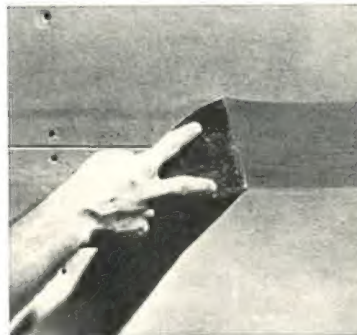
2. Always start application on the ceiling. Place board with its long dimension at right angles to the framing. Board should fit in all places snugly but without any wedging or forcing.



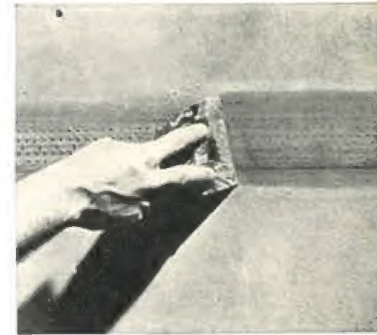
3. Start nailing at the center of each board, space nails 5 to 7 inches apart and work outward toward edges. Use a crown headed carpenter's hammer and drive each nail until the head rests in a slight depression.



4. In horizontal application start sidewalls at ceiling. Be particularly careful to hold the board tightly against the framing by applying hand pressure where nails are being driven. This avoids loose nailing.



5. Use joint cement recommended by the gypsum board manufacturer and follow directions carefully for mixing. Use a broad knife and moderate pressure to fill the recessed channels between panels evenly.



6. Apply reinforcing tape to full length of each joint and imbed tape in cement. Remove excess cement then cover tape with a thin coating.



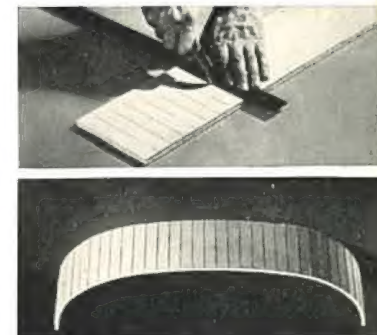
7. Apply second coat of cement, feathering edges out to obtain a smooth, even surface. A third coat is recommended after second coat dries. End joints on panels are treated same as the recessed joints.



8. Before concealing nailheads, make certain each board is tight against framing. Fill depressions around nailheads with cement. Two or three coats are recommended. All cemented surfaces should be sanded lightly between coats.



9. There is little difference between finishing corners and flat wall joints. The exception is that the tape is folded lengthwise down the center to fit each corner. Two to three coats of cement are used here also.



10. When a curved surface is to be covered, gypsum board is scored on the surface and made to conform quickly and easily to the curvature desired. Treat corners with tape and cement.

